

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-05 EB-07 FEA-01 CEQ-01 EPA-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /084 W

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P P 030821Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1989

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

USARJ CAMP ZAMA

COMNAVFOR JAPAN YOKOSUKA

USAGO MACHINATO

313TH AD/18TH TFW CC

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

OAFB CAMP BUTLER

OAC CAMP BUTLER

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: ANOTHER OIL SPILL AROUSES OKINAWA PROTEST

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REF: NAHA 048 (DTG 300850Z JAN 76)

1. AN INADVERTENT SPILL OF JET FUEL FROM A USMC AIRCRAFT AT KADENA AIR BASE LATE FEB 1 HAS HELPED TO FUEL LOCAL CONCERN ABOUT U.S. FORCES USE OF OIL AND PIPELINE. INCIDENT ITSELF WAS MINOR.

600 GALLON CAPACITY FUEL TANK CONTAINING JP-4 WAS ACCIDENTALLY RELEASED FROM MARINE F-4 INSIDE A HANGAR AT KADENA. TANK CRACKED AND, DESPITE RAPID CONTAINMENT EFFORTS, ESTIMATED 20 TO 30 GALLONS PASSED THROUGH DRAINAGE AND OFF BASE.

2. LOCAL PRESS, WHILE REPORTING ACCIDENT FACTUALLY AND PRINTING

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AIR FORCE PRESS RELEASE, GAVE INCIDENT HEAVY PLAY, REFERRING TO

SIMILAR SEPT INCIDENT, "REPETITIVE FUEL OIL LEAKAGES," AND STRONG INDIGNATION AMONG VILLAGERS, KADENA MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY. PRESS TRANSLATED WORD "INADVERTENT" IN AIR FORCE PRESS STATEMENT AS "CARELESSNESS." AS/OF 1030 HOUR FEB 3, CONGEN HAS RECEIVED NO PROTESTS, POSSIBLY REFLECTING KADENA TOWN'S BASIC INTEREST IN CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF AIR BASE, WHICH GENERATES LUCRATIVE RENTAL PAYMENTS, GOJ SUBSIDIES, AND INCOME FROM U.S. FORCES AND DEPENDENTS. USMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS HAS PROVIDED ON THE SPOT BRIEFING WHICH APPEARED TO SATISFY KADENA MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY,

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AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT OIL CATCHMENT DEVICE WILL BE FITTED TO DRAIN.

3. MEANWHILE, LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES OIL PIPELINE COVERAGE, HIGHLIGHTING DISCUSSION IN DIET LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE. FEB 3 OKINAWA TIMES HEADLINED THAT PRIME MINISTER MIKI AND FONMIN MIYAZAWA REPORTEDLY STATED THAT RELOCATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF LINES UNDER STUDY. MIYAZAWA REPORTEDLY SAID MEASURES WOULD BE STUDIED IN US-JAPAN JOINT COMMITTEE. TIMES COMMENTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S POSITIVE POSTURE ON PIPELINE ISSUE WAS UNPRECEDENTED. RYUKYU SHIMPO REPORTED DFA DIRGEN SAITO "ADMISSION" THAT PIPELINE IS DANGEROUS, THAT U.S. MILITARY HAD BEEN ASKED IN JOINT COMMITTEE TO INSPECT AND IMPROVE DANGEROUS SECTIONS, AND THAT LONG RANGE MEASURES TO REMOVE PIPELINE FROM URBAN AREAS WOULD BE STUDIED IN COORDINATION WITH U.S.FORCES.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO EMBASSY TOKYO, MAINLAND PRESS INDICATES MIKI AND MIYAZAWA WERE NOT SPECIFIC, REPORTEDLY STATING THAT PIPELINE QUESTION INCLUDING RELOCATION WOULD BE TAKEN UP AND STUDIED CAREFULLY.

OKINAWA PRESS HAS TENDENCY TO EXAGGERATE AND DISTORT, PARTICULARLY IN HEADLINES, UNFORTUNATELY, LOCAL READERS OFTEN TAKE THEIR REPORTAGE AS FACTS.

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